

Letters

Parking-Meter Gouge
EDITOR
THE PRESS:

I have just read an article stating Councilman Draie's position on parking meters—asking for their removal. May I write an open letter answering his proposal?

Well, Councilman Draie, I was ahead of you in your latest deduction by many years; about 12 to be exact. If you will recall I worked hard getting a petition signed AGAINST installation of the meters. I sat in front of the old Safeway Store on Sartori (now Lawson's Jewelers) after having worked eight hours at Columbia Steel, and explained to the people that in the long run business would suffer, also how unjust it was to charge the Torrance citizens to park on their own streets that they had paid for and continued to pay for through taxes. (Actually it has been ruled unconstitutional in some places). Many people agreed with me and signed the petition.

But Councilman, you were in favor of the meters and enough of you prevailed and they were installed. And to enforce this double tax on us we have the charming I admit—little eager beavers on scooters who pounce on the shoppers and had out tickets (after all, they must earn their salaries). But this only further alienates the potential spender from turning here to shop. I know dozens of people who boycott our downtown business because of the tickets.

Now any schoolchild could figure the answer to this payola scheme—the only one who benefits from this fiasco is the meter

manufacturer—unless, of course, there was a payoff to some of those who were so anxious for this blunder.

Now, Councilman, after the horse is gone you want to lock the barn door. Is it possible your sudden concern for downtown Torrance is a personal one? Can it be political chickens are coming home to roost? I only wish your concern had started sooner when the interests of all Torrance were at stake.

It is true, little old downtown Torrance is fast becoming a ghost town—because of poor planning by the city and such short-sighted, greedy projects as the meters. I can't even park in front of my own house over two hours—which is slightly ridiculous due to the constant lessening of business, empty store buildings, etc. There is no parking problem on our street, nor never was—yet it is posted for two-hour parking.

Today I received a letter from you and Mr. Jahn—asking my support—none from Mr. Benstead, who cannot afford an expensive campaign. Yet Mr. Benstead, in my opinion is the only

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FR 5-2545
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incumbent who deserves to be retained in office at this election. Victor Benstead has been fair, honest, and dedicated in his service to all the people of Torrance and has no conflict of interest to color his voting. He is still working at Columbia Steel and no richer than when he entered office. Incidentally, he was opposed to the meters at the outset—proving again his better judgment.

Mr. Draie, I cannot support you. Like a chameleon, you change colors too often.
RENE DEAN PEKRUL
Democratic State Committee Woman

Use Press classified ads to buy, rent or sell. Phone DA 5-1515.

Mrs. Stockdale Is Candidate

Phyllis Stockdale is a candidate for city clerk in Palos Verdes Estates in the April 12 elections.

She has been deputy city clerk, deputy city treasurer, purchasing officer, and secretary of the planning commission in Rolling Hills.

Mrs. Stockdale is submitting quotes of praise from Rolling Hills councilmen, mayor, and city manager in support of her campaign. She noted that nine neighboring cities have woman clerks.

Use classified. Call DA 5-1515.

Accord Reached on Improvement of Boulevard

An agreement has been reached among the county, Rolling Hills Estates, and Palos Verdes Properties for improvement of Hawthorne Blvd.

The segment scheduled for improvement is between Palos Verdes Drive North and Silver Spur Road.

The agreement brought to a conclusion nearly two years of negotiations by Supervisor Burton W. Chace for a contract fair to all concerned.

Use classified. Call DA 5-1515.

Fort MacArthur Personnel Win Cash, Awards

The first cash and performance awards under the "Operation Searchlight" program at Fort MacArthur were presented Thursday to 22 civilian and military employees by Col. D. L. Lewis, post commander.

A total of \$525 went to employees nominated because of outstanding abilities as well as for those who submitted suggestions to improve their jobs.

Foremost of the awards is the army's outstanding performance rating, with no money, presented to Al M. Junker, 1617 W. 261st St., Harbor City, an employee of the post-engineer section.

The second highest award to be presented, the army's sustained superior performance rating, went to Lucille D. Thornton, 23351 Pennsylvania Ave., Torrance, of the post quartermaster section. The award carried \$100.

Spring Is Here; Get Comfortable

Spring is here. At 7:57 a.m. yesterday the Torrance police radio ordered all units: "Remove ties."



See the

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It's Time for a Change!

HE'S YOUR MAN →

THIRVIN D. FLEETWOOD
FOR CITY COUNCILMAN

LOOK DOWN YOUR BALLOT TO NO. 12

Vote April 12, 1960

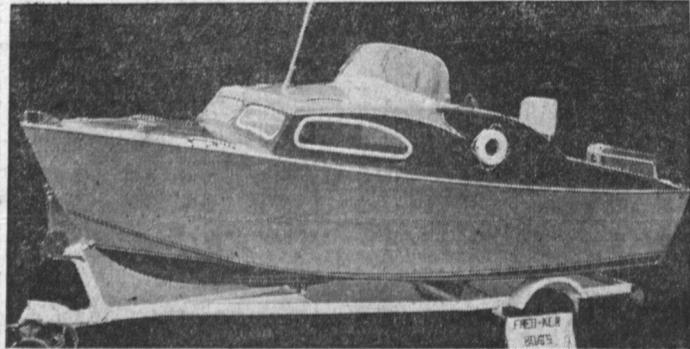
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